

Crimes Reported in Cambridge

January 1 to March 31

Crime	2000	2001	Change
Murder	1	1	N.C.
Rape	1	3	+200%
Stranger	0	0	N.C.
Non-Stranger	1	3	+200%
Robbery	42	35	-17%
Commercial	8	9	+13%
Street	34	26	-24%
Agg. Assault	60	78	+30%
Burglary	114	119	+4%
Residential	77	89	+16%
Commercial	37	30	-19%
Larceny	585	647	+12%
Building	165	135	-18%
Motor Vehicle	125	193	+54%
Person	64	109	+70%
Bicycle	30	10	-67%
Shoplifting	93	133	+43%
Residence	41	43	+5%
MV Plate	45	13	-71%
Services	3	7	+133%
Misc.	19	4	-79%
Auto Theft	122	101	-17%
Total Violent	105	118	+12%
Total Prop.	821	866	+6%
Index Total	926	984	+6%

First Three Months in Review

The first three months show slight increases in most Part I crimes. However, these totals follow on the heels of a 30-year low reported in 1999 and 2000. Totals for street robbery and commercial burglary continue to decline.

One crime in particular that may reverse itself this year is auto theft. Auto theft totals for the end of 1999 and the beginning of 2000 were marked with a prolific pattern of Camry thefts. This sent auto theft totals sky-rocketing and pushed the property crime total up. This quarter the auto theft total decreased because of the lack of patterns, possibly setting it up for an overall decrease in 2001.

Two crimes continue to be a problem in Cambridge: larceny from motor vehicles and larceny from person.

Area 4 continues to be a hotspot for larcenies from motor vehicles. Despite efforts made to curb this crime, patterns keep re-emerging.

Despite the attention given to larcenies from person, people continue to report that thieves are stealing their wallets and purses from various restaurants and cafes in Harvard and Central Squares. Keeping belongings in constant direct possession will help to prevent these larcenies from happening.

Like the first three months of 2000, the first three months of 2001 also saw a spike in commercial robbery. This year more gas station robberies are being committed than bank robberies.

Few conclusions as to long-term trends can be derived from only three months, but so far the outlook is good for the year 2001. Crime reduction strategies pursued by the police department and